IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for relieving acute or chronic pain comprising:

administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of an antisense oligonucleotide ~~agent~~ which is complementary to mRNA encoding PSD95 and which inhibits expression of ~~PSD93 or~~ PSD95, whereby acute or chronic pain experienced by the subject is relieved.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is complementary to nucleotides encoding a PDZ domain.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~3~~ wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is complementary to nucleotides 241 to 258 of PSD95.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the agent is administered intrathecally.

7. (currently amended) A method for treating or preventing hyperalgesia comprising:

administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of an antisense oligonucleotide ~~agent~~ which is complementary to mRNA encoding PSD95 and which inhibits expression of ~~PSD93 or~~ PSD95, whereby hyperalgesia experienced by the subject is relieved.

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (original) The method of claim 7 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is complementary to nucleotides encoding a PDZ domain.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 7 ~~9~~ wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is complementary to nucleotides 241 to 258 of PSD95.

12. (original) The method of claim 7 wherein the agent is administered intrathecally.

13. (currently amended) A method of reducing a threshold for anesthesia comprising:

administering to a subject an anesthetic and an antisense oligonucleotide ~~agent~~ which is complementary to mRNA encoding PSD95 and which inhibits expression of ~~PSD93 or~~ PSD95, wherein the amount of anesthetic administered is less than the amount required in the absence of the antisense oligonucleotide ~~agent~~ to achieve a desired anesthetic effect, whereby the desired anesthetic effect is achieved.

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (original) The method of claim 13 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is complementary to nucleotides encoding a PDZ domain.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 13 ~~15~~ wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is complementary to nucleotides 241 to 258 of PSD95.

18. (original) The method of claim 13 wherein the agent is administered intrathecally.

19. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising an isolated and purified antisense polynucleotide which is complementary to PSD95 ~~or PSD93~~ mRNA.

20. (original) The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 19 wherein the polynucleotide is complementary to nucleotides encoding a PDZ domain.

21. (currently amended) The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 19 wherein the polynucleotide is complementary to nucleotides encoding a ~~C-terminal~~ PDZ domain.

22. (original) The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 19 wherein the polynucleotide is complementary to nucleotides 241 to 258 of PSD95.

23. (canceled)

24. (original) The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 19 wherein the polynucleotide is manufactured under regulatory-approved conditions for administration to humans.

25. (original) The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 19 wherein the polynucleotide is pyrogen-free.

26-33. (canceled)

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 13 wherein the anesthetic is selected from the group consisting of halothane, isoflurane, desflurane, xenon, and sevoflurane.

35-61. (canceled)

62. (original) The method of claim 13 wherein the anesthetic is an inhalational anesthetic.

63. (canceled)

64. (original) The method of claim 13 wherein the anesthetic is selected from the group consisting of urethane, chloral hydrate, and sodium pentobarbitone.

65. (canceled)

66. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is a human.

67. (new) The method of claim 7 wherein the subject is a human.

68. (new) The method of claim 13 wherein the subject is a human.